

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 11 have been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added. Entry is requested.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Boyce et al, (U.S. 4,284,542) or Venkatasanthanam et al (U.S. 6,541,098).

Boyce is cited by the examiner as showing hot melt adhesives which incorporate the claimed ionomer resins and as further showing the resin with the claimed tackifiers. The examiner urges that the thermoplastic elastomer from the listed optional additives.

Venkatasanthanam is cited by the examiner as showing adhesive compositions and articles formed there from. It is the examiner's position that Venkatasanthanam suggests ionomers thermoplastic resins and tackifiers.

Applicants disagree. The claimed invention is not obvious in view of either of the cited Boyce or Venkatasanthanam patent references.

Boyce discloses ionomer-based hot melt adhesive and sealant compositions that have improved high temperature viscosity when it contains ammonium phosphate. The Boyce compositions find use as glass sealants or adhesives for automobile windows. Preferably, the compositions also contain an inorganic filler, such as carbon black. Various reinforcing agents may also be used. The inclusion of a polystyrene resin among the listed reinforcing agents would not render obvious applicants' adhesive comprising a thermoplastic elastomer, a tackifier, and an ionomer. There is not suggestion of the use of styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-b-ethylene/butylene-b-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene or blends thereof with ionomers and

tackifying resins as required in claim 5. In addition, there is no suggestion of an article comprising the adhesive and an elastomeric substrate, such as a elastic fiber, as required in claims 8-12.

Venkatasanthanam discloses flexible adhesive film structures which exhibit pressure sensitive adhesive properties. The film structures of Venkatasanthanam comprise a flexible polymer face layer (A), an adhesive layer (B) and a patterned layer of nonadhesive material (C). While Venkatasanthanam discloses that the flexible polymer film layer (A) may be ionomers, and that the adhesive layer (B) include pressure sensitive hot melt adhesives, there is no suggestion of a hot melt adhesive comprising a thermoplastic elastomer, a tackifier, and an ionomer. In addition, there is no suggestion of an article comprising the adhesive and an elastomeric substrate, such as a elastic fiber, as required in claims 8-12.

Applicants' submit that the claimed invention is not obvious over the disclosures of Boyce or Venkatasanthanam. Withdrawal is requested.

Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Boyce et al, (U.S. 4,284,542) or Venkatasanthanam et al (U.S. 6,541,098) and further in view of Mehaffy (U.S. 6,117,945).

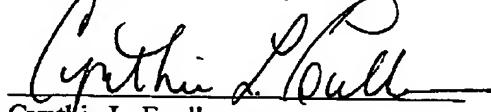
Mehaffy is cited as disclosing similar polymeric compositions used in articles and process as claimed. The examiner urges that it would be obvious to use the compositions of the primary references in the articles and process of the secondary references.

Applicants disagree. The claimed invention is not obvious in view of either Boyce or Venkatasanthanam, when combined with Mehaffy.

Neither of the Boyce or Venkatasanthanam patent references suggests the adhesive claimed by applicants. Mehaffy adds nothing to the disclosure of Boyce or Venkatasanthanam to render obvious applicants' adhesive, let alone articles such as elastomeric articles comprising the adhesive. Neither of the Boyce or Venkatasanthanam primary references or the Mehaffy secondary reference, which discloses adhesives for use in case, carton and tray formation, disclose disposable absorbent articles, or disposable absorbent elastic articles, such as diapers.

Applicants submit that the claimed invention is free of the prior art of record. Early and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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